

CORRECTED

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1660V

UNPUBLISHED

ROBERT MELE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: October 29, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*David Matthew Moran, Moran & Moran, P.C., Wexford, PA, for Petitioner.*

*Camille Michelle Collett, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

## **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On October 25, 2019, Robert Mele filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) caused by an influenza vaccine administered on October 31, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 7, 2021, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On October 27, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$574,319.11 consisting of \$210,000.00 for pain and suffering, \$344,625.44 representing lost wages, \$11,943.79 representative of life care items, and \$7,749.88 for out-of-pocket medical and related expenses. Proffer at 2-3. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$574,319.11, for all damages, including \$210,000.00 representative of pain and suffering, \$344,625.44 representative of lost earnings, \$11,943.79 representative of life care items, and \$7,749.88 representative of out-of-pocket medical and related expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

ROBERT MELE,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 19-1660 ECF
	)	
v.	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

<sup>1</sup> This Proffer does not include attorneys' fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

suffering, \$344,625.44 representative of lost earnings, \$11,943.79 representative of life care items, and \$7,749.88 representative of out-of-pocket medical and related expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**III. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, as described below, and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: A lump sum payment of \$574,319.11, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>2</sup> Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

DARRYL R. WISHARD  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

---

<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

/s/Camille M. Collett

CAMILLE M. COLLETT

Trial Attorney

Torts Branch, Civil Division

U. S. Department of Justice

P.O. Box 146, Benjamin Franklin Station

Washington, D.C. 20044-0146

Direct dial: (202) 616-4098

E-mail: [Camille.M.Collett@usdoj.gov](mailto:Camille.M.Collett@usdoj.gov)

Dated: October 27, 2021